

Claims

1. Method for assisting navigation, comprising:
 - a) automatically determining information on an upcoming maneuver,
 - b) automatically determining a current position,
 - c) automatically determining information on an object in the vicinity of the current position, wherein the object is detected by at least one sensor, and
 - d) processing the maneuver information and the information on the object in the vicinity to determine current combined navigation information.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein step c) comprises determining position, velocity, acceleration, dimension, shape, color and/or movement direction of the detected object.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein step c) comprises classifying the detected object according to a pre-determined criterion.
4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the current sensor data is obtained from a sensor for electromagnetic waves and/or a sensor for pressure waves.
5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein step d) comprises determining a warning information regarding a detected object according to a pre-determined criterion.
6. Method according to claim 5, wherein determining a warning information comprises determining current and/or expected movement parameters of the detected object and/or of the current position.

7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein step d) comprises modifying the maneuver information depending on the information on the detected object.
8. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein step c) is performed permanently or within pre-determined intervals in space and/or time.
9. Method according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of acoustically and/or optically and/or haptically outputting the current combined navigation information.
10. Method according to claim 9, wherein the outputting step comprises outputting current information on the detected object, in particular, position, velocity, acceleration, dimension, shape, color and/or movement direction of the object.
11. Method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the time and/or the format of the output is determined depending on the determined information on the detected object.
12. Method according to one of the claims 9 – 11, wherein the outputting step comprises setting a device in motion and/or modifying the movement properties of a movable device.
13. Method according to one of the claims 9 – 12, wherein the outputting step comprises assigning the current combined navigation information to one of at least two predetermined classes and outputting the current combined navigation information in a predetermined format for each of the classes.
14. Method for assisting navigation in a vehicle, the vehicle comprising a navigation system and at least one sensor to detect an object in the vicinity of the vehicle, comprising the steps of the method according to one of the claims 1 – 13.

15. Computer program product directly loadable into an internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of the method according to one of the claims 1 to 14.
16. Computer program product stored on a medium readable by a computer system, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method according to one of the claims 1 to 14.
17. Navigation system, in particular, for performing the method according to one of the claims 1 – 14, comprising:
 - a means for determining information on an upcoming maneuver,
 - a means for determining a current position,
 - a means for receiving sensor data of a detected object in the vicinity of the current position and for determining information on the detected object, and
 - a means for processing the maneuver information and the information on the object in the vicinity to determine current combined navigation information.
18. Vehicle comprising at least one sensor for detecting an object in the vicinity, a navigation system according to claim 17, and a means for outputting the current combined navigation information.